Mutual fund mechanism for roads

1753. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India propose to set up a mutual fund mechanism with capital of Rs. thousand crores infrastructure equity fund for creating market for roads in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether setting up of such a mutual fund mechanism comes under the preview of NHAI;

(d) if not, how such funds can be made operative; and

(e) the measures discussed to safeguard equity investment in such mutual funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Production in SSI sector

1754. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study by CII shows that production in the small scale industrial sector has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether removal of QRs has affected adversely in performance of the small scale sector; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As reported by CII, the study does not show any reduction in production in Small Scale Sector.

(c) and (d) While removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) has exposed the SSI Sector to greater competition, the Government has put